

Attorney's Docket No. 35718/237251(5718-134)

PATENT



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Gruis et al. Confirmation No.: 7358

Appl No.: 09/934,066 Group Art Unit: 1638

Filed: August 21, 2001 Examiner: Stuart F. Baum

For: METHODS OF INCREASING POLYPEPTIDE
ACCUMULATION IN PLANTS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 21, 2003

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 21, 2003, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely claims 1-12; Group II, namely claims 13-18 and 28-35; Group III, namely claims 19-23 and 25 as directed to methods for increasing accumulation of one or more polypeptides of interest in a seed comprising decreasing the activity of a protease; Group IV, namely Claims 19-22 and 24-25 as drawn to methods for increasing the accumulation of one or more polypeptides of interest in a seed comprising increasing the activity of a protease; Group V, namely claims 26 and 27; Group VI, namely claim 36; and Group VII, namely claim 37. Applicants hereby elect without traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-12) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned agent so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

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this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Coulter

Kathryn L. Coulter
Registration No. 45,889

CUSTOMER NO. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260	CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on April 21, 2003. <i>Nora C Martinez</i> Nora C. Martinez
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